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Vol. 20, No. 6 October 21, 1997

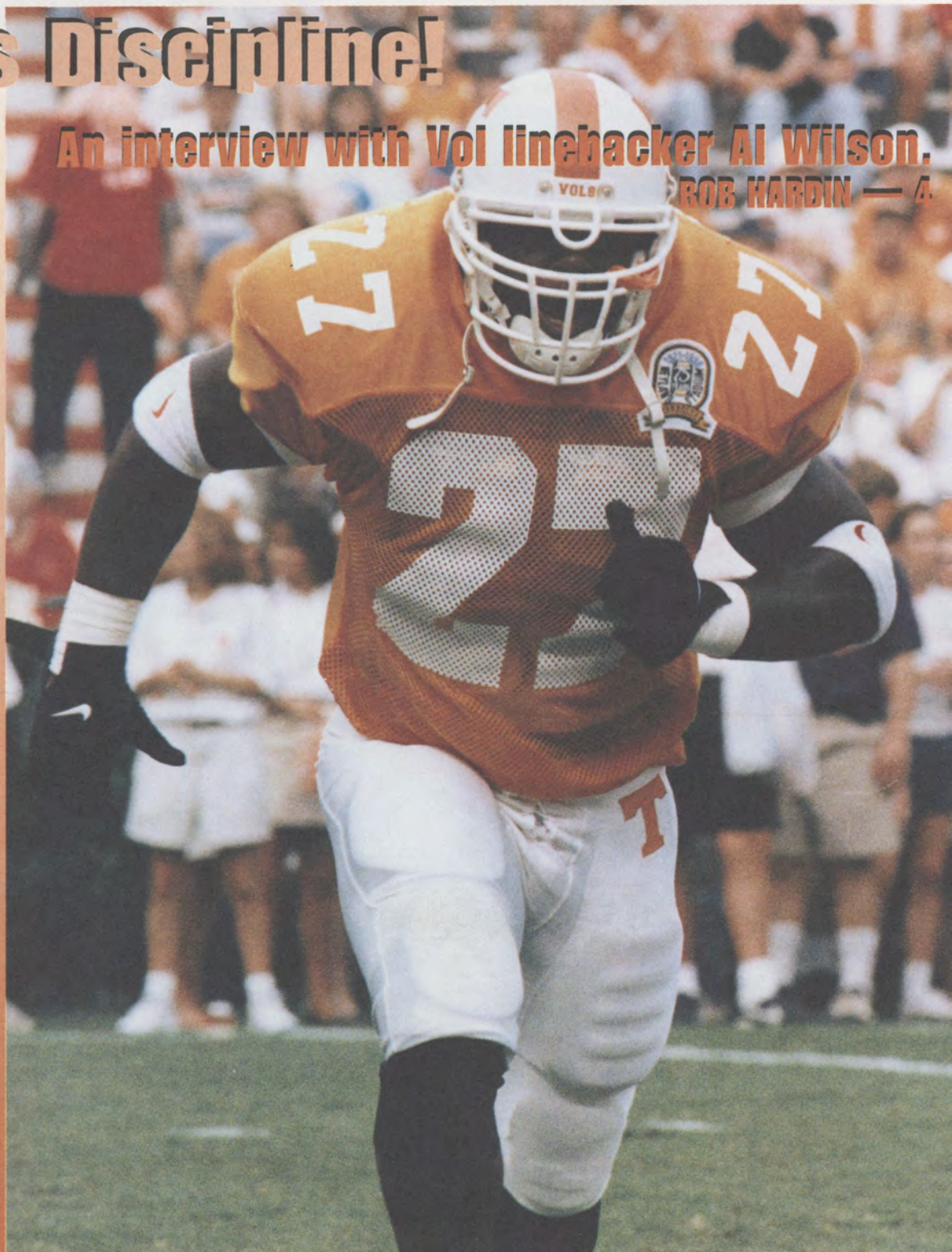
Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

It Takes Discipline!

An interview with Vol linebacker Al Wilson.

ROB HARDIN — 4



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From the Editor

You meet a lot of people in this job and every now and then one of them becomes a really good friend. That was the case with Morristown's O'Dell Lonas, who for several years was the car dealer for several UTAD staffers, including Roger Frazier, Earl Schliesman and myself. I met O'Dell through Billy Henry and was enriched by the experience.

Before O'Dell became ill a year or so ago, an illness which eventually took his life on Oct. 4, the day of the Tennessee-Ole Miss game, he was a regular around UTAD. No one was a better Vol fan, or when you think about it, a better person. He and his wife, Vernell, and daughter, Kim, always tailgated just above the entrance to the G-10 garage on Stadium Drive. He loved the Vols and always hoped to get back to Neyland Stadium this season.

He never made it. The call came from Billy at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4. I walked to the stadium later that day down Stadium Drive and cast a glance in the direction of their tailgate site just in case.

They buried O'Dell the following Monday afternoon in Jefferson County in an Orange shirt and with a Tennessee cap in his hands.

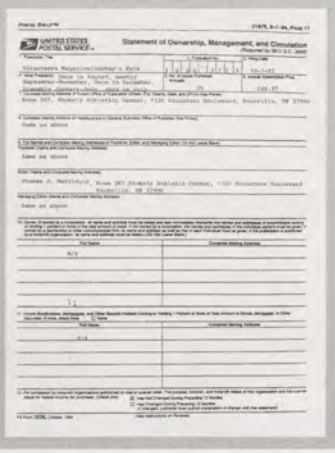
O'Dell and Vernell Lonas in November 1996. Photo by Donnell Field.

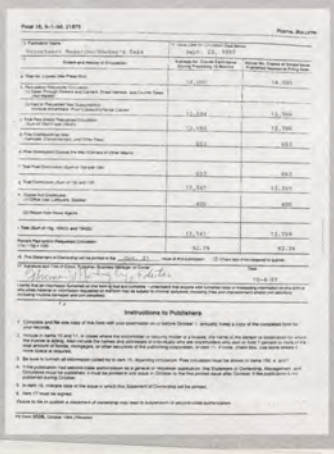
At his request, they played "Rocky Top" at the end of his memorial service.

There are a lot of good and loyal Vol fans, but O'Dell Lonas has to be right there at the top. He made life better for all of us who knew him and it's hard to think of a better tribute than that for him.

There will be no monuments to the lives of people like O'Dell Lonas, except in the memories of those who knew and admired him.

— Tom Mattingly





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A Look At The Vols...
It Takes Discipline!

It may be one of the most demanding positions on the defensive side of the ball.

It requires the defender to be part defensive lineman and part cornerback. He has to be able to stop the run, cover a back in a pass route or any one else who may run a pass route.

The position is outside linebacker and one that Vol Al Wilson has handled quite capably this season.

Wilson has registered 35 tackles this season from his left outside linebacker spot and has 10 big plays to his credit. The result has been praise from Vol defensive coordinator John Chavis.

"In the first four games, I believe he is having an All-America type year," Chavis said. "He is probably playing as well as any linebacker in the country. Al understands what we want him to do in our scheme. He has got great talent and he is letting it show.

"He understands what he is supposed to do and where is supposed to be on the field. He has a great feel for our scheme."

Part of Wilson's success on the field has to do with practice habits off the field and the coaching of the Vol staff. Wilson's discipline has been a key to his success.

"Discipline plays a big role," he said. "Without discipline, it is hard to play linebacker. I am in a lot of man coverage and have a lot of run responsibility, plus I have to call the defense and make the checks.

Al Wilson has become a leader by the example he sets on the field.

"Discipline plays a big role. When you start playing college football, you will gain discipline and the coaches will put it in you."

Case in point are two plays from the 31-17 win over Mississippi.

The Vols were holding a 21-9 lead with just under 10 minutes remaining in the third quarter. The Rebels were driving, though, and had the ball first-and-10 at the Tennessee 30-yard line.

The Rebels had just successfully executed a screen pass for a 15-yard gain and were attempting that play again. This time, however, Wilson was not fooled and slipped through several blockers to tackle the Rebel receiver for a 5-yard loss.

That forced the Rebels into a second down and long-yardage situation. Short gains on second and third downs brought up fourth-and-10. Ole Miss was set to kick a field goal, but the fake was on and, as the Ole Miss kicker tried to go around right end, Wilson was there for the stop.

"His responsibility on a field is the holder or the placekicker if they come out on his side," Chavis said.

"He saw the tight end release and he almost went with him, but then he realized his responsibility was the holder or the kicker. He got his head back around and the kicker was there with the ball. Then he made an excellent play on the tackle."

While the demands on Wilson may seem many, he is quite comfortable in his role.

"It is not a hard position to play once you learn it," he said. "I have had a chance to play that position for three years.

"I am used to it now and I know what to do. I have just got it to where I can play without thinking. I just react more than anything. It is hard once you start, but once you get into it and learn about the position, it comes easier."

Wilson has had a chance to play each of his three years as a Vol. During his freshman season he saw action in every quarter of the season but one. He mostly was a standout on special teams, but did get playing time at linebacker. In the 56-21 win over South Carolina in 1995, Wilson recorded seven tackles and had an interception. He also logged his first collegiate quarterback sack against Southern Mississippi that year. He did not know that he would see that much action his rookie season.

"I really did not know what to expect," Wilson said.

"I just wanted to come in and show the coaches that I could play football. Regardless of what position they played me, I wanted them to know I was ready to play and wanted to play.

"I was happy they gave me the opportunity to play, because it did help me out in getting experience. Coming in and playing as a freshmen was a great feeling."

Wilson did have to make adjustments from his days at Jackson Central Merry High School.

"The speed of the college game and the tempo is much faster," he said. "You have to be in better shape to play college football.

"In high school players played both offense and defense, but in college the game is so fast it is just hard to do. Adjusting to the tempo was the biggest thing for me."

Last season, Wilson earned a starting role at linebacker and did not disappoint. He was the team's second-leading tackler with 87 hits and registered 15 big plays including a fumble recovery in the 48-28 Citrus Bowl win over Northwestern.

Wilson has continued his strong play into this season. He was leading the team in tackles with 35 after the win against Ole Miss and is tied with fellow linebacker Leonard Little for the team lead in big plays with 10.

His playing time the previous two years has contributed to his success this season.

"It is a real big edge having experience, because going in to games I know what to expect," Wilson said. "I know what my goals are going into the game and I know what I need to do for my team.

"Experience helps more than anything, and I just go out and try to play my type of football game. I want to help my team as much as possible and help the team win."

Wilson also has one more advantage, as does the rest of the starting linebacker corps with him, Little and sophomore Raynoch Thompson, and that is speed.

"You can't replace speed and you can't stop speed," he said. "With Leonard and Raynoch back there, it makes me want to play harder.

"I know those two are going to go out and play like wild men and I want to do that myself.

"THE SPEED OF THE COLLEGE GAME AND THE TEMPO IS MUCH FASTER. YOU HAVE TO BE IN BETTER SHAPE TO PLAY COLLEGE FOOTBALL. IN HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS PLAYED BOTH OFFENSE AND DEFENSE, BUT IN COLLEGE THE GAME IS SO FAST IT IS JUST HARD TO DO. ADJUSTING TO THE TEMPO WAS THE BIGGEST THING FOR ME."

—AL WILSON

"With the speed we have at linebacker, it can sometimes be unbelievable how fast we can run to the football. Speed helps more than anything and just to have those guys back there with the speed is great."

Along with his speed and experience, Wilson credits his football instinct with helping him excel on the field.

"I have studied a lot of film and I have studied our defense a lot," he said.

"I know our entire defense. I know where my man is going to be, so I know where I need to be. If you know where your man is going to be, you can go to your spot and hopefully the ball will come to you."

Knowing what is going to occur on the field also increases the possibility of the making the big play.

"Making a big play is sometimes just being in the right place at the right time and sometimes it is instinct," he said. "Sometimes you can react and feel where the play is going. Sometimes it is just luck. But if you have a lot of instinct, you can make the big plays."

—Rob Hardin

THREE IN A ROW! VOLS 38, ALABAMA 21!

Action from the Vols' 38-21 victory over Alabama Saturday.

(See Fulmer File, p. 8)

LEGION FIELD, Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 18, 1997 - Shawn Bryson is no longer a "Face in the Crowd," as he was in Sports Illustrated on Nov. 24, 1986, when he was a nine-year old in Franklin, N.C.

Bryson joined a number of other Vols who stepped front and center as Tennessee overcame an early 6-0 deficit to take a decisive 38-21 win here tonight before 83,091 and an ESPN television audience.

A 6-0 first quarter deficit was nothing to this bunch of Vols, now 5-1 overall and 3-1 in the SEC. The Vols hit a 21-point trifecta in the first half, widened the lead to 28-6 midway in the third quarter and held off a mild Tide threat that closed the gap to 28-14 before cruising home with the 17-point victory.

Bryson's two TDs, one in the first quarter and another in the second, came on a 19-yard run right up the middle and a two-yard run a series later, a possession set up by a Terry Fair interception.

"It was basically an up the middle play," Bryson said. "I saw the hole, hit it and came away with six. We knew if we hit the holes quick there would be yards to gain."

But Bryson's heroics were not all the Big White had to offer on this perfect October evening. Peyton Manning, the first Vol quarterback to engineer three straight wins over Alabama, was sharp as he could be after the first two Vol possessions went nowhere. He completed 23 of 37 passes for 304 yards and three TDs. Jeremaine Copeland caught two of the TD strikes and Peerless Price added the third. Copeland's scores came from 30 and 10 yards out and Price's TD was the game-cincher from 52 yards out after Al Wilson had broken up a fourth-down toss and given the Vols possession at the 48. Jeff Hall added a 28-yard field goal on the final play of the third quarter.

"TO GO OUT WITH A WIN AGAINST ALABAMA IS GREAT, ESPECIALLY AT THEIR PLACE. YOU KNOW ALABAMA WAS GOING TO COME TO PLAY, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO GET THE WIN. WE HAD A GOOD WEEK IN PRACTICE AND DID WHAT WE NEEDED TO DO TO WIN THE GAME. THE LINE PLAYED PRETTY GOOD. WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO RUN THE BALL BETTER, BUT YOU HAVE TO TAKE WHAT THEY GIVE YOU."

— VOL CENTER TREY TEAGUE

It was a night for Orange-colored memories as the Vols and their fans celebrated the victory at the northeast corner and the Vol dressing room rocked with the celebration of a well-deserved victory. The Vols have now won their last two contests at the slate-gray stadium on Graymont Avenue, scoring 79 points in the process. Vol defenders were also their usual aggressive selves knocking Tide quarterback Freddie Kitchens and Bama runners and receivers around like so many pinballs. Kitchens, to his credit, got up every time the Vols knocked him down.

The Vols trailed 6-0 before Manning got things cranked up from the Vol 26. Manning found Andy McCullough for 19 on third-and-10 and Copeland for six and 11, each for first downs. Price caught an 11-yard pass that put the Vols in business at the Tide 19. Just when

you thought the air blitz would continue, Bryson roared up the middle, nearly untouched, for the score that gave the Vols the lead for good. It was 7-6 at the quarter.

The second quarter was more of the same. Fair's interception (he looked more like the intended receiver than the Tide's Quincy Jackson, so good was the coverage) put the Vols in business at the 20 and Manning cashed it in 11 plays and nearly six minutes off the clock

"They were trying to set us up for the deep ball," Fair said. "I don't know whether Kitchens saw me or not, but I was running with the receiver step for step. He threw the ball up and I was there to make a play. This was the best total team effort the defense has played. We were intense all night and never let up. The real Tennessee defense came alive."

McCullough had 12-yarder on third-and-three at the Vol 27 and Manning pulled off the night's biggest gamble when he followed Trey Teague and pals for a key first down on fourth-and-short at the Vol 48. With that little matter out of the way, there were tosses to the elusive and always wide-open Marcus Nash for 13 and 24. The Vols were in position at the Tide 14 at the North end. A defensive holding call moved the pigskin to the Tide 7. Jamal Lewis carried for five to the two, setting up Bryson's second TD, a dive at center. You almost expected to see Manning in the Northwest corner on the bootleg, much the way he did in 1995 at the same end of the field on a similar-looking play, but Bryson got the job done. It was 14-6 with 8:50 left in the half.

It was three-and-out for the Tide on the next series, as Leonard Little, one day shy of his 23rd birthday, and mates proved crusty in the trenches. The Vols got it back at the 37 and immediately moved goalward again.

On second-and-10 from the 37, Lewis popped up the middle for 21 to the Tide 42. From that point the Tide was penalized for illegal participation, putting the ball at the 26. After a Vol penalty, an incomplete pass and one-yard run by Lewis, Manning found Copeland down the right boundary for six points on third-and-14. Jeremaine made a nifty move at the flag to find the promised land at the northeast corner. It was 21-6 at the half.

The kicking game made the first break of the second half on the Tide's second series as Eric Brown blocked a Tide punt, giving the Vols the ball at the Alabama 16.

It took three plays to score, as Manning found Copeland against double coverage on the end line, this time at the South end. It was 28-6, but Manning was not through yet.

After the Tide closed to 28-14, Manning led a drive for a Hall fielder following field position engendered by a 22-yard punt return by Fair. Hall booted the three-pointer on the last play of the quarter to give the Vols breathing room at 31-14.

Price's TD capped things off as Manning found Peerless down the left side and Price made a nifty move to get open and an even niftier move to find the end zone. It was 38-14 and the celebration was in full swing across the way.

"I felt great to get my first deep ball of the season," Price said. "We have been trying to hit it all year. We finally did it. I told Peyton early in the game if he threw it up there, I would make the rest happen. I wanted to get into the end zone bad. I wanted that more than any touchdown I have ever got here. At first we tried to come and run the ball. We saw they were putting eight guys in the box, and we came out the next series passing the ball. Things got rolling after that."

Eric Brown (left) had a blocked punt that led to a Vol score and Andy McCullough (right) had four catches for 47 yards.

Vol defenders fought the good fight, holding the Tide to 72 yards rushing and 225 overall. Tori Noel had 11 tackles to place the defensive effort. Al Wilson, as inspirational as ever even though he left the field with a shin injury, had five tackles, one for loss (-4) and broke up the aforementioned fourth-down pass that led to Price's score. Billy Ratliff, who was injured in practice the week of the Ole Miss game, made his first appearance back a successful one, causing a fumble and stopping a Utah pass cold.

Tennessee Statistics vs. Alabama

Team Statistics	UT	UA
First Downs	23	13
Rushing	6	5
Passing	15	8
Penalty	2	0
Rushing Attempts	31	28
Yards Gained	111	95
Yards Lost	22	23
Net Yards Rushing	89	72
Net Yards Passing	304	153
Passes Attempted	38	42
Passes Completed	23	15
Had Intercepted	0	1
Total Offensive Plays	69	70
Total Net Yards	393	225
Average Gain	5.7	3.2
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	2-0
Penalties No-Yards	9-68	3-28
Punts-Average	5-41.4	7-36.0
Punt Returns-Yards	6-63	4-32
Kickoff Returns-Yards	4-83	4-118
Int. Returns-Yards	1-(-3)	0-0
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Time of Possession	31:35	28:25
Third Down Conversions	6-14	4-17
Fourth Down Conversions	1-1	1-4
Sacks By-Yards	2-16	2-18

TENNESSEE	7	14	10	7—38
ALABAMA	6	0	8	7—21

1-A: Cunningham, FG 42.
Drive: 8 plays, 39 yards, 3:11 possession, 9:52 on clock.
1-A: Cunningham, FG 35.
Drive: 4 plays, 2 yards, 2:04 possession, 3:56 on clock.
1-T: Bryson, run 19. Hall kick.
Drive: 9 plays, 74 yards, 3:09 possession, :47 on clock.
2-T: Bryson, run 2. Hall kick.
Drive: 11 plays, 80 yards, 5:42 possession, 9:43 on clock.
2-T: Copeland, pass from Manning 30. Hall kick.
Drive: 5 plays, 63 yards, 1:38 possession, 7:12 on clock.
3-T: Copeland, pass from Manning 10. Hall kick.
Drive: 3 plays, 16 yards, 1:27 possession, 8:02 on clock.
3-A: Scissum, pass from Kitchens 33. S. Alexander run.
Drive: 5 plays, 58 yards, 2:09 possession, 5:53 on clock.
3-T: Hall, FG 28.
Drive: 7 plays, 26 yards, 2:43 possession, 0:00 on clock.
4-T: Price, pass from Manning 52. Hall kick.
Drive: 1 play, 52 yards,:12 possession, 13:20 on clock.
4-A: Jackson, pass from Phillips 4. Cunningham kick.
Drive: 5 plays, 21 yards, 2:32 possession,:42 on clock.

Rushing	Att.	Gain	Lost	Net	TD	Long
Lewis	17	69	2	67	0	21
Bryson	6	33	0	33	2	19
Darden	2	5	1	4	0	5
Edmonds	1	1	0	1	0	1
T. Martin	2	2	6	-4	0	2
Manning	3	1	13	-12	0	1

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yards	TD	Long
Manning	37	23	0	304	3	52
T. Martin	1	0	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Copeland	6	70	2	30
Nash	5	77	0	24
P. Price	4	78	1	52
McCullough	4	47	0	19
C. Wilson	1	12	0	12
Bryson	1	9	0	9
Levine	1	8	0	8
Lewis	1	3	0	3

Punting	No.	Yards.	Avg.	Long
Hogue	5	207	41.4	49

Field Goals	Att.	Made	Long
Hall	2	1	28

All Returns	Punts No.Yds.LP	Kickoffs No.YdsLP	Int. No.Yds.LP
Goodrich		3 58 22	
Levine		1 25 25	
E. Brown	1 12 12		
Fair	5 51 22		1 3 3

Fulmer File...

1997 Alabama Game

Football season is a delightful time of the year, even with its ups and downs, but I don't expect to find many months more joyful than October 1997 was for the Tennessee Vols.

When you post huge victories over three tough Southeastern Conference opponents and see the maturity level of your football team increase with each game, you know you've experienced some memorable Saturdays and a historically significant month.

That, of course, is what the Vols accomplished. They withstood a tough performance from Ole Miss, developed into a sound team in nearly every respect against Georgia and then vanquished that great old rival, Alabama, 38-21, on Saturday night.

To end the string of October games by beating Alabama on their home turf in Birmingham is really special. Despite some tough times they've had, the Crimson Tide plays with the heart that is part of their glorious tradition. They never let up for a moment and were still battling at the end.

As I mentioned, October was a wonderful month for Vol football and not simply because we won three SEC games. Offensively, we made big strides by developing a running game tied to a surging line and the emergence of backs Jamal Lewis and Shawn Bryson. Defensively, we were clicking on all cylinders. And our kicking game not only was sound, but it provided some big plays that changed momentum.

Against Alabama, a blocked punt gave us a momentum swing in the third quarter after a few series in which nothing spectacular seemed to be happening. It's like we tell our special teams, you have the ability to make things happen, so go out and help get us in position to win. The blocked punt was a perfect example of the kind of thing we are talking about. It was a team effort in which Eric Brown blocked the kick and recovered the ball.

Seeing Billy Ratliff back on the field, doing his typical Billy Ratliff style things, gave us all a big lift. Billy is talented and athletic, and he plays every down to the maximum. In the first quarter, when the game wasn't going our way, Billy made a tackle that eventually led to Alabama settling for a field goal. We fell behind, 6-0, and I sure didn't want our deficit to be any greater than that. Billy, a fine competitor, took care of that for us. It's great to have Ratliff back and showing his customary form.

As for our offensive leader, Peyton Manning, what more can I say? He's playing the way you would expect from a leading candidate for the Heisman Trophy. He has the distinction of becoming the first Tennessee starting quarterback to engineer three wins over Alabama. I call that an achievement of legendary proportions.

There is a certain amount of controversy concerning open dates. While applauding obvious advantages, some coaches dislike the interruption to offensive rhythm an off day presents. Regardless of the merit and drawbacks, the fact is we try to make the most of the schedule as we find it.

Right now we have an open date coming up next Saturday, which means we will use it for all its worth. As coaches, we will continue to work on fundamentals, knowing execution - not schemes - is the key to success. After all, as Jamal Lewis told ESPN Friday, it was the two open dates in September that gave him the opportunity to learn what he needed to know to take over at tailback for us. Now this sparkling freshman is like a seasoned veteran; he carries out his assignment and then allows those God-given instincts work for him when he maneuvers into the open field.

We'll be looking for more dramatic improvement from the entire team before we go up against a dangerous and hungry South Carolina team Nov. 1. No more open dates, folks, so we've got to put our noses to the grindstone and keep them there the rest of the season as we meet South Carolina, Southern Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky and Vanderbilt on successive Saturdays.

We have three more games at Neyland Stadium starting with South Carolina. Our team needs your continued support, which is something you never fail to deliver. We'll be looking and listening for you Nov. 1.

— Phillip Fulmer

> ***"As I mentioned, October was a wonderful month for Vol football and not simply because we won three SEC games. Offensively, we made big strides by developing a running game tied to a surging line and the emergence of backs Jamal Lewis and Shawn Bryson. Defensively, we were clicking on all cylinders. And our kicking game not only was sound, but it provided some big plays that changed momentum."***
>
> ***— Phillip Fulmer***

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Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols... "Blest Be The Tie!"

Cheers went up when the college football rules committee did away with the tie in 1996. No more sister-kissing, no decision deadlocks. Every game now has a winner.

But there is a flip side to that coin. Every game also has a loser, too.

Coaches used to curse the tie. I remember Bowden Wyatt fussing after his 1955 Tennessee team had fought to a standstill with Georgia Tech.

"We were tied when the game started," growled Bowden.

I always suspected that at least part of the disdain for the tie was macho talk. Secretly, privately, down in their pounding hearts, coaches sometimes embraced the tie. I can only recall one coach admitting it.

Blanton Collier, the Kentucky coach who made life so miserable for the Vols in the 1950s and early 1960s, had opted for a place kick PAT rather than gamble on a two-pointer late in the fourth quarter as his 1960 team rallied to tie the Vols, 10-10, at Shields-Watkins Field. He was asked about that decision in the post-game press conference.

"A tie," said Collier, "is the next best thing to a win!"

Tennessee has had its share of ties. In the 991 games played by the Vols prior to the rules change, 53 of them wound up in ties of various descriptions. Some were dull and listless, as ties were supposed to be, but some of them ranked with the most memorable games in UT grid history.

Kentucky was the main spoiler. The Wildcats destroyed perfect Vol records with a 0-0 tie in 1928, a 6-6 tie in 1929 and another 6-6 deadlock in 1931. That last one knocked the Vols out of a Rose Bowl bid, and the weather was as much to blame as the Wildcats.

Snow covered the field at Lexington that day as the two old rivals fought through bitter cold. Kentucky led 6-0 late in the fourth quarter, but the Vols drove for the tying touchdown.

Gene McEver plowed through the line for what was first called a TD, but the referee changed the call when he wiped the snow away and found the ball a few inches shy of the goal line.

Neyland had already substituted kicker Charlie Kohlhase, but when the TD was rubbed out, Kohlhase was replaced to get another blocker in. McEver scored on the next play, but Kohlhase could not return under the rules then in effect, and the extra point was missed.

An even stormier deadlock took place the following season, on the afternoon of Nov. 12, 1932, at Nashville's Dudley Field. The scoreless tie with Vanderbilt on that day was in all probability the wildest, most controversial game ever played by a Tennessee team.

The stadium was packed with 30,000 fans, and thousands who had been unable to buy tickets knocked the fences down, stormed through a line of hose-wielding firemen, ands swarmed along the sidelines, some spilling out onto the playing field. At halftime, the referee announced that the game would not be resumed until the sidelines were cleared, a project that took 40 minutes to complete.

The flashpoint fo all those heated emotions was when the Vols' great Beattie Feathers caught a 20-yard pass from Pug Vaughn and raced 51 yards for a touchdown. As the Vols lined up for the PAT try, Vandy assistant coach Russ Cohen screamed at the officials and pointed to a spot near the Vandy bench, claiming it was Feathers' footprint, out of bounds.

Field judge Battle Begley, whose name thereafter lived in evil memory at Tennessee, examined the spot and called the play back. Afterwards the crowd became so wild that the referee ended the game with three minutes left to play and Vandy on the march deep in UT territory. That tie also ruined a perfect Vol season.

Forty-two years later, still another stormy tie was played at Nashville. The 1974 Vols trailed Vanderbilt 21-13 with time running out in the fourth period.

But for the second straight year, Vandy punter Barry Burton committed a costly error against the Vols, bobbling the snap from center at his own 12, thus giving UT one last chance. Stanley Morgan scored the touchdown with seven seconds left, but there was still a two-point conversion needed to give the Vols a tie.

That great passing combine of Condredge Holloway and Larry Seivers took care of that, Seivers leaping high at the very tip of the end zone to bring down Holloway's throw. Thus it ended 21-21, the highest scoring tie ever to that point involving a Tennessee team.

That was one time, I'm sure, when Vol players, coaches and fans alike would have agreed with Blanton Collier's words of wisdom. A tie was the next best thing to a win.

Former Vol

Bill Bates (1979-82)

Bill Bates did not have to go far to fulfill his dreams of playing college football. A native of Farragut, a west suburb of Knoxville. After finishing his brilliant high school career at Farragut High School, Bates came to Tennessee, fulfilling a life-long dream.

Bates spent four great years in Knoxville, playing with the likes of Reggie White, Willie Gault, Tim Irwin, Alan Cockrell and Mike L. Cofer. During Bates' years at Tennessee, the Vols posted a 26-20-1 record and in 1982 broke Alabama's 11-game winning streak in a 35-28 win at Neyland Stadium.

Today, Bates is playing out, in what is probably his last year, another lifelong childhood dream, that of playing in the National Football League. As a member of the Dallas Cowboys, Bates has spent the last 14 years in "Big D," playing a key role in their last three Super Bowl Championships. Bates supports the United Way, the Boys Clubs, the Special Olympics, the March of Dimes and other non-profit organizations. He serves as honorary chairman of the Wednesday's Child Golf Tournament benefiting Dallas-area orphans and the Keystone Academy Golf Tournament for the Learning Disabled.

He is married to former Vol cheerleader Denise Conrad and they have five children: triplets Graham William, Brianna Gail and Hunter James (5/24/89); Tanner Forest (2/1/91) and Dillion Timothy (7/5/95). They reside in Texas even when Bates is not playing for the Cowboys.

Bill Bates has spent the past 14 years playing out a childhood dream on what once was "America's Team," the Dallas Cowboys.

Muir New Assistant SID

Men's Athletic Director Doug Dickey announced the hiring of Jeff Muir as Assistant Sports Information Director. Muir will handle all media relations matters concerning the Tennessee baseball team, as well as assisting in the day-to-day football tasks, among his other duties.

Muir served as an intern in the Volunteer Athletic Department beginning November 1995, handling the baseball program. Prior to coming to UT, he served as a Sports Information Assistant at the University of Arkansas (June 1993 to July 1995) and the University of Kansas (August 1995 to October 1995).

Track and Field Announces 1997 Awards

The Tennessee men's track and field program held its annual awards banquet on Sunday, Oct. 5. There, the coaches and staff recognized the outstanding competition from last season and honored the athletes who excelled during the 1996 campaign. In all, 11 awards were presented to 16 athletes.

The honors and honorees were: **The Ed Murphey Award** — Aaron Ausmus; **The Pritchett Award "Most Dedicated Senior"** — Mike Moran; **The Jon Young's Captain Award** — Chris Brown, Russell Rainey and Aaron Ausmus; **The James Snow Freshman Academic Award** — John Dickson.

The Dr. Jack Chesney Senior Academic Award — Jason Webster; **The Most Valuable Award** — Aaron Ausmus (field) and Doug Ellington (runner); **The Most Improved Award** — Diondre Jackson (field) and Dawane Wallace (runner); **The Ironman Award** — Tom Pappas; **The Comeback-of-the-Year Award** — Phil Carter; and **The Toughest Competitor Award** — Wes Boudreau (field) and Chris Brown (runner).

Vol Harriers Place 11th at South Bend

The Tennessee men's cross country team ran in its forth meet of the season on Friday, Oct. 3, when they competed in the Notre Dame Invitational in South Bend, Ind.

The Vols totaled 302 points to finish 11th in a field of 22 teams in their division (Blue). Eastern Michigan, with 89 points, topped out the division followed by Notre Dame (94), Ohio State (153), Cincinnati (171) and, rounding out the top five, Connecticut with 179 points.

Leading the way for the Vols once again was senior Bob Dickie, who finished 12th with a time of 25:06. Dickie was followed by Doug Ellington in 21st with a mark of 25:21, Mike Moran in 66th in 26:18, Garrett Lewis in 95th with a 26:52 mark and Randy Henning who finished 108th with a time of 27:05.

In addition to the Vols competing in the Blue Division, two Tennessee freshmen ran in the Open Division of the Invitational. Brian Chambers finished 35th out of 74 runners in a time of 27:46. Brad Missler rounded out the Open Division field in 74th with a mark of 29:03.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

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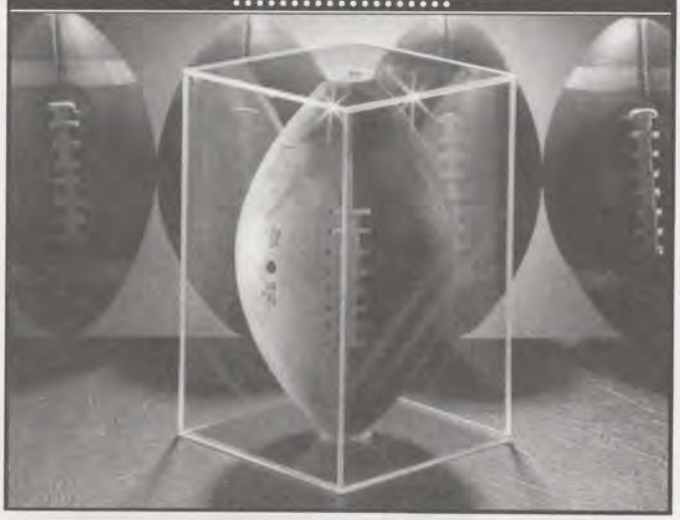

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This Week In Big Orange Country

Young Tennessee Golfers Gain Experience

No one said it would be easy to replace six seniors. However, that is what head golf coach Mike Malarkey had to do when he signed eight freshmen to don the orange and white. Malarkey was faced with building a team on two returning lettermen and with eight times as many freshmen as seniors.

Malarkey, in his 22nd year of molding Vol golf squads, looked to be in for a few more gray hairs. However, his young charges are learning fast. They need to learn fast.

A demanding fall and spring schedule leaves no rest for the weary. Those who are sharp enough will play at the NCAA Championships in May. The others will be left in the rough waiting for the eternal "next year".

Just two tournaments into the season, the Vol contingent has been thrown in the fires of collegiate competition. The Vols didn't emerge on top, but they did emerge a little more confident and a little better. There is something to be said for living to fight another day.

UT teed off the 1997-98 season at the Keswick Club Cavalier Classic Sept. 20-21 In Charlottesville, Va. The Vols finished 12th while firing rounds of 299-294-311—904 at par 71, 6,307-yard Keswick Club.

The Vols brought six players to Virginia in order to gain as much experience as possible. The travel squad consisted of five members whose scores counted towards the team total and an individual. Four of the six were true freshmen.

Matt McWilliams, a freshman from Franklin, led the Tennesseans. McWilliams carded a 71-71-79—221 to finish tied for 29th. Kevin Law, a junior from Hixson, followed with a 74-76-72—222, 34th-t place. Derrick Centers, a sophomore from Somerset, Ky., fired a second-round 69 to post the best Vol round of the tournament. Centers finished with a 77-69-83—229 to tie for 55th. Ryo Fukami, a true freshman from Alcoa, competed as an individual. Fukami posted a 76-77-79—232 to tie for 61st. Jimmy White, a freshman from Ooltewah, carded rounds of 77-78-78—233 to place 64th-t. Andy Brimer, a freshman from Morristown, finished 73rd with rounds of 81-81-82—244.

From Sept. 28-29, the Vols played host for the only time of the season at the Tennessee Tournament of Champions. The Vols once again placed 12th. However, the men in orange and white cut 15 strokes off their team total from their first tournament. UT posted a 287-298-304—889 at par 72, 6,948-yard Holston Hills Country Club. Following a "learn fast" strategy, Tennessee played two individuals along with the five golfers whose scores counted for the Vols. Five of the seven were true freshmen.

Centers led the squad with a 69-73-77—219 stroke, 24th-t place finish. Brimer followed with a 222, shaving 22 strokes off his first collegiate tournament just a week before, to tie for 37th. White fired a 224 to tie for 43rd. Law finished with a 225 to tie for 51st.

In his first collegiate tournament, true freshman Phanthep Somsamart fired a 231 to tie for 73rd. Kariem Baraka and Fukami competed individually for the Vols. Baraka, nephew of professional golfer Bernard Langer, fired a 224 to tie for 43rd in his first collegiate tournament. Fukami tied for 69th with a 230.

The next step for the Vols will come Oct. 27-28 when they travel to Baton Rouge, La., for the Country Club of Louisiana Intercollegiate.

—Nathan Kirkham

Coach Mike Malarkey has seen positive results from his young golfers in the early part of their 1997 season.

Intensity is Key for the Lady Vols

The 1997-98 Lady Vol swimmers and divers will be exploding off the blocks and breaking through the water this season, driven by a desire to succeed and fueled by a mindset of "Intensity". With eight returning All-Americans and a solid foundation supported by eight returnees and six newcomers, Tennessee is geared up to record another successful season.

Guiding Tennessee to another prosperous year will be head coach Dan Colella. He is entering his fifth year at the helm of the Orange and White and is driven to return the Lady Volunteers to their 17th-straight appearance at the NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving Championships in Minneapolis, Minn.

In pursuit of additional All-America certificates will be seniors Tori DeSilvia, Jen Mancini, Leslie Mix, Fabiola Molina and Emily Plummer. DeSilvia and Mix lead the senior class with 11 total top honors each.

Aiding this talented group will be some accomplished returnees. Colella will look to junior All-America veterans Sarah Nichols, Sarah Payette and Kathy Pesek to assist in scoring this season.

Joining Mix in the distance freestyle events will be Nichols, making this duo one to be reckoned with on the conference and national level. Entering the season, the distance events appear to be the strongest.

Adding depth to the breaststroke events will be Payette. She qualified for nationals for the first time last season and earned All-America honors in both medley relays.

Pesek, meanwhile, is the most experienced diver Tennessee returns this season. With the loss of NCAA champion Tracy Bonner and All-American Dawn Burton to graduation, Pesek will be an integral part of the diving team. She returns with a wealth of experience after competing in the World Cup this summer and will be participating in the World Aquatic Championships in January. All three juniors should provide UT with a lot of strength and intensity throughout the season.

Adding to this already talented group of eight swimmers and divers will be the remaining eight returnees. Seniors Luciana Abe, Paula Marsiglia, Erin McGriff and Cheri Sears headline this group. Abe, who joined the Lady Vols last January, will add more depth to the already deep distance events. Marsiglia will be one to look for in the sprint freestyle events, as she narrowly missed the cut for nationals last year. McGriff, meanwhile, is a potential qualifier for NCAAs in the breaststroke and IM events, while Cheri Sears is the lone senior on the Lady Vol diving team. Juniors Alicia Ball and Jill Sprecher and sophomore Kelly Shedden will also be looking to make an impact early.

Coming in to help the Lady Vols attempt to qualify for their 17th-straight appearance at NCAAs will be six freshmen. Missy Bell, Azurdee Engel, Tanya Felton, Pam Hanson, Katy White and Jane Woodard all enter the Tennessee program with impressive credentials.

The intensity can be seen in the eyes of each Lady Volunteer, as they approach this season with the desire and will to take Tennessee swimming and diving to the top.

—Carol Crawford

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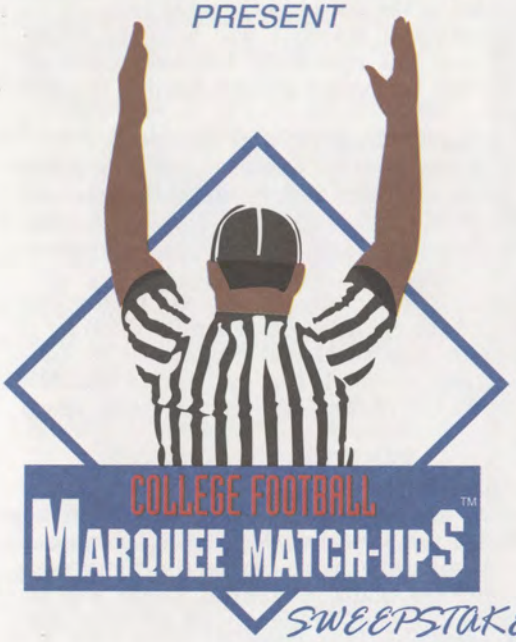

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Auburn vs. **Georgia**	November 15
Florida St. vs. **Florida**	November 22
Alabama vs **Auburn**	November 22
Tennessee vs. **Kentucky**	November 22
Vandy vs. **Tennessee**	November 29
Miss vs. **Miss. State**	November 29

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VASF NEWS AND NOTES

NCAA Q & A

In this week's edition, the NCAA expands on its list of forbidden types of contact by athletic representatives. Remember that all members of the VASF are considered athletic representatives by the NCAA.

QUESTION: Can an athletic representative contact a prospective student-athlete's parents, relatives, or legal guardians for any sort of recruiting?

ANSWER: No. The NCAA strictly forbids any contact regarding recruiting between a University athletic representative and anyone related to a prospective student-athlete. Only University of Tennessee athletic staff members are permitted to have contact with prospective student-athletes regarding recruitment. The University of Tennessee is held directly accountable for any violation or infringement made by its athletic representatives. There can be NO mention of the University, its athletic programs, nor of the student-athlete's future plans. Dr. Malcolm McInnis is the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance. His office phone is (423) 974-3871 and his staff can help you keep conversations focused on the "appropriate topics" when dealing with prospective student-athletes. More NCAA Q & A in the next issue.

"Midnight Madness"

The Marketing Department would like to thank all the fans, students, spirit squad members, teams, coaches and sponsors who made "Midnight Madness 1997" a success. Cellular One, adidas, WNOX/WIVK, WOKI, WVLT TV 8, Surge/Coca-Cola, and the Knoxville News Sentinel contributed in numerous ways to help promote, support, and provide prizes for all the festivities. Everything went well and the Vols and Lady Vols look forward to tipping it off soon in November.

First Basketball Games Quickly Approaching

The Vols will tip off their 1997-98 campaign as they drive for a bid to the "big dance" on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 p.m. in Thompson-Boling Arena as they play an exhibition game with the California All-Stars team.

The Lady Vols will start their 1997-98 quest for a sixth national title on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 6 p.m. in Thompson-Boling Arena with an exhibition game against the Armed Forces All-Star team. Tickets to both games will be sold at the door. Call the ticket office at (423) 656-1200 for more details.

New VASF Priority Deadline March 1

The Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund has made an important change regarding donations and donor priority. Starting in 1998, the donor deadline for all benefits will move from March 15 to March 1.

All donations, including the first part of corporate matching grant forms, must be received by March 1 in order to qualify for any benefits for the 1998 football and basketball seasons.

The VASF appreciates everyone's support of the Volunteers and is implementing this change in an effort to expedite football ticket application and renewal mail-out.

The VASF takes in approximately 75 percent of its annual donations in the three-month period from January 1 to March 1. With more than 9,000 donors, getting all the gifts acknowledged and recorded in the data base is a big task.

The new deadline of March 1 will help the VASF improve service and gift recording. Football renewals and applications will be mailed around April 1, instead of April 14.

Wendy's Basketball Tip-Off Banquet

Spaces are filling fast for dinner seats at a table with either a Vols or Lady Vols basketball player or coach. The 1997-98 Wendy's Basketball Tip-Off Banquet will be held on Thursday night, Oct. 30, in Thompson-Boling Arena.

Robin Roberts, ESPN commentator, will be the featured speaker. Tickets are $25 per person or $200 for a table seating eight. The meal will be catered by Calhoun's of Knoxville. Contact the Lady Vols athletic department at (423) 974-0001 to reserve your space today.

VASF Day

Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund Day, a day designed to honor and thank all the supporters of the VASF, is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 1, in Thompson-Boling Arena. It will take place before the Tennessee football game against South Carolina. There will be games, food, and autograph sessions with selected athletes from each of Tennessee's sports.

The event will begin two and one-half hours before the football game. Since the media have until 12 days prior to an athletic event to choose whether or not to televise it, the exact start time will be contingent upon the start of the South Carolina football game.

All VASF donors should receive two complimentary admission tickets in the mail in the next few weeks. Extras will be available. If you have not received yours by Oct. 29, call the VASF Office at (423) 974-1218. Make plans to attend this "thank you" from the VASF.

Baseball Ticket Information

Ticket applications and renewals for the 1998 baseball Vols will be mailed around the first week in December. Contact the ticket office at (423) 656-1200 if you are interested in getting your name on the mailing list for season or big game package tickets .

Big Game Packs Selling Fast

1997-98 mini-season ticket packages are available through the mail. They are $40 each and contain tickets to four of Tennessee's best match ups of the their home season. All the games are on Saturdays over a five-week span.

The tickets reflect the same seat for all four home games against Kentucky, Vanderbilt, Arkansas, and South Carolina. Call the ticket office at (423) 656-1200 for a brochure. The ticket office would like to remind everyone that tickets for these games will not be mailed until after the first of the new year.

—Steve Sams

Holdsclaw Earns Basketball's Honda Award

For only the second time in history, a Lady Vol was chosen as finalist for the prestigious Honda-Broderick Cup, given to an athlete voted as the top performer in her sport. After leading Tennessee to a second straight NCAA title in 1996-97, Chamique Holdsclaw was chosen as the basketball representative for the award.

Holdsclaw is one of 10 athletes selected in 11 NCAA sports in the running for the trophy. Among the other nominees are South Carolina's Trinity Johnson in softball and Georgia's Kim Arnold in gymnastics.

In the Honda Award's 21-year history, the only previous Lady Vol picked as a finalist was Bridgette Gordon in 1988-89.

Kees Collects SEC & Soccer America Awards

Junior defender Kassie Kees earned two honors this past week as she was recognized by Soccer America on its Collegiate Team of the Week for her performance in helping the Lady Vols gain victories over East Tennessee State and Xavier.

Each week, Soccer America chooses the top 11 players in the nation based on their performance over the previous seven days. Kees' honor came on the heels of her selection as the SEC Player of the Week, the first Tennessee soccer player ever to receive the award.

Cross Country Takes Title, Ritter Sixth Overall

Led by sophomore Kristen Ritter's sixth-place finish, the Lady Vol cross country team captured the team title at the Saluki Invitational.

It was the first victory for Tennessee in a multi-team event since Sept. 26, 1992, at the Clemson Invitational.

Rounding out the Lady Vol top finishers was senior Dorothy Denko and sophomores Meghan Mantlo (ninth), Mindy Watkins (13th) and Amy Bartosik (20th).

Malhotra and Lepsi Compete in Clay Court Championships

Senior Manisha Malhotra advanced to the singles round of 16 at the ITA National Clay Court Championships in Orlando, Fla., highlighting the Lady Vol contingent. She won her first two matches in three sets, before falling to Georgia's Marissa Catlin, 6-2, 6-4. Teaming with Malhotra in doubles was senior Margie Lepsi, who together advanced to the second round before falling to a pair from Wake Forest, 6-2, 2-6, 7-5.

Junior Kassie Kees became the first Lady Vol soccer player to earn SEC Player of the Week honors, as well as being recognized by Soccer America on its Collegiate Team of the Week for her performances against ETSU and Xavier.

Soccer Wins At Arizona State

Freshman Laura Lauter of Farragut, helped the Lady Vols bounce back from a loss at Arizona by notching a game-winning goal on the road at Arizona State. UT, which is tied for the No. 10 ranking in the Central Region, improved to 6-5 on the season with the 2-1 victory.

The mark equals Tennessee's wins from its inaugural season in 1996. In the Arizona State game, the Lady Vols yielded a first-half goal, but tallied two goals in the final stanza, to claim the win. UT outshot ASU, 15-9.

Volleyball Moves To 3-1 in the SEC with Victory over Alabama

For the first time since 1989, the Lady Vol volleyball team holds a 3-1 mark in conference play. Tennessee split its recent road matches, as the team lost to Auburn and defeated Alabama to move to 8-10 on the year.

Against the Crimson Tide, sophomore outside hitter Chris Jestila tallied a team season-high 24 kills, along with her season-best .511 hitting percentage and 12 digs, as the Lady Vols cruised to a 15-9, 15-8, 7-15, 15-6, victory.

Junior setter Christy Warren (41 assists and 10 digs) and senior outside hitter Kerry Ginter (13 kills and 12 digs) also collected double-doubles in the match.

Volleyball Has Roster Changes

Two players off Coach Rob Patrick's volleyball team will sit out the remainder of the 1997 season. Freshman middle blocker Ariana Wilson, who has not played in a single match all year, will redshirt and retain freshman eligibility for 1998.

Sophomore middle blocker Mindy Britten, however, has been lost for the season due to a back injury. Britten, whose status for next season has not been determined, played in seven matches and was hitting .300 in limited action.

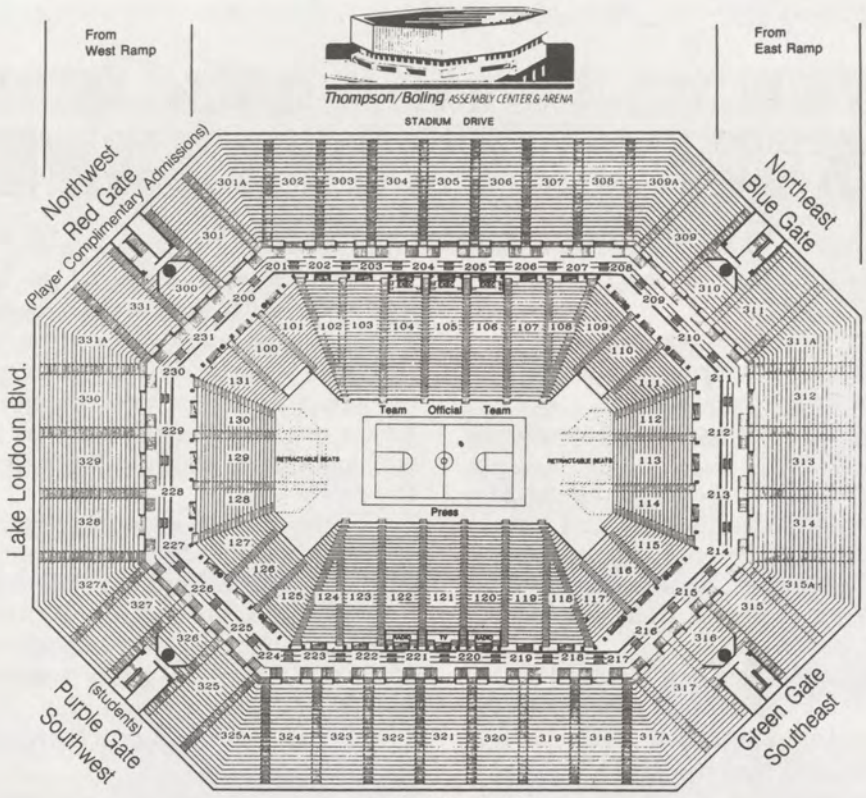
1997-98 TENNESSEE BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Nov. 4	Calif. All-Stars (Exh.)	KNOXVILLE	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 9	Marathon (Exh.)	KNOXVILLE	4:00 p.m.
Nov. 14	Winthrop	KNOXVILLE	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 17	Miami (Ohio)	KNOXVILLE	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 19	UNC Asheville	KNOXVILLE	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 23	Austin Peay	KNOXVILLE	2:00 p.m.
Nov. 28	Appalachian State	KNOXVILLE	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 2	Tennessee Tech	KNOXVILLE	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	Wofford	KNOXVILLE	2:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	St. Joseph's	KNOXVILLE	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20	Memphis	Memphis	8:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	Southern California	Los Angelas	10:00 p.m.
Jan. 3	Florida	Gainesville	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 7	Auburn	KNOXVILLE	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	Vanderbilt	Nashville	8:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	Ole Miss (Fox SS)	KNOXVILLE	6:00 p.m.
Jan. 21	South Carolina (JP)	Columbia	8:00 p.m.
Jan. 24	Kentucky	KNOXVILLE	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	Alabama	Tuscaloosa	8:00 p.m.
Jan. 31	LSU	Baton Rouge	8:00 p.m.
Feb. 4	Georgia	KNOXVILLE	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	South Carolina (JP)	KNOXVILLE	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 11	Kentucky (JP)	Lexington	8:00 p.m.
Feb. 14	Arkansas (JP)	KNOXVILLE	12:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	Mississippi State (ESPN)	Starkville	9:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Vanderbilt	KNOXVILLE	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Florida	KNOXVILLE	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 28	Georgia (JP)	Athens	4:00 p.m.
Mar. 5-8	SEC Tournament	Atlanta	TBA
Mar. 12-15	NCAA First Round	Regional Sites	TBA
Mar. 19-22	NCAA Second Round	Regional Sites	TBA
Mar. 28&30	NCAA FINAL FOUR	The Alamo Dome San Antonio, TX	(TBA)

All times Eastern Time

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Nov. 9	U.S. Armed Forces(exh)	KNOXVILLE	6 p.m
Nov. 18	Mississippi	KNOXVILLE	7 p.m.
Nov. 21	Louisiana Tech	KNOXVILLE	7 p.m.
Nov. 23	Tennessee-Martin	Martin	2 p.m. (CT)
Nov. 25	Vermont	KNOXVILLE	7 p.m.
Nov. 29	Stanford	San Jose, CA	12:30p.m.(PT)
Nov. 30	Portland	Portland	5 p.m. (PT)
Dec. 3	Texas	KNOXVILLE	7 p.m.
Dec. 6-7	Big Apple Classic	Riverdale, NY	1/3 p.m.
	(Tennessee vs. George Mason, Manhattan vs. Morgan State)		
Dec. 12	SEC/BIG10 Challenge	KNOXVILLE	7/9 p.m.
	(Florida vs. Purdue, Tennessee vs. Illinois)		
Dec. 18-20	Northern Lights Invitational-Anchorage,AK		1:3/6:8 p.m.
	(Tennessee vs. Akron, Pepperdine vs. Mississippi, Wisconsin vs. Manhattan, Texas A&M vs. Alaska)		
Jan. 1	Arkansas	KNOXVILLE	2 p.m.
Jan.3	Connecticut	KNOXVILLE	4 p.m.
Jan. 6	South Carolina	Columbia	7 p.m.
Jan. 10	Florida	KNOXVILLE	7 p.m.
Jan. 13	Georgia	Athens	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	Kentucky	Lexington	2 p.m.
Jan. 20	DePaul	Chicago	7 p.m.
Jan. 25	Vanderbilt	KNOXVILLE	3 p.m.
Jan. 28	Georgia	KNOXVILLE	7 p.m.
Feb. 1	Alabama	KNOXVILLE	3 p.m.
Feb. 4	Mississippi	Oxford	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	Old Dominion	KNOXVILLE	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	Mississippi State	Starkville	7 p.m.
Feb. 12	Memphis	Memphis	7 p.m.
Feb. 14	Auburn	KNOXVILLE	7 p.m.
Feb. 16	Vanderbilt	Nashville	3 p.m.
Feb. 22	Louisiana State	KNOXVILLE	2 p.m.
Feb./Mar. 26-1	SEC Tournament	Columbus, GA	
Mar. 13-16	NCAA First & Second Rounds	Campus Sites	
Mar. 21&23	NCAA Regionals	Campus Sites	
	(East-Dayton, Mideast-Vanderbilt, Midwest-Texas Tech, West-Oakland, Cal)		
Mar. 27&29	NCAA Final Four	Kansas City, MO	
	(Kemper Arena)		

All times are Eastern Time unless otherwise noted



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SAFEGARD

Inside Tennessee Basketball...

An Interview with Head Coach Jerry Green

Q: What would you like to tell the fans about this Vol team?

A: I would tell the fans we are going to work very hard, play very hard, and try to improve Tennessee basketball on a daily basis with a great attitude.

Q: How would you describe your philosophy of basketball?

A: In college basketball, you need a complete program. Academics is first, basketball second and always in that order. Treat people the way you want to be treated. Never give up on a young man. Work as hard as you can and do the best that you can with what you have to work with.

We like to run, and the players like to run. We like to play good team basketball and dive for loose balls. We want to show people exciting basketball. They haven't filled the arena in a while and that is a great challenge. I take pride in rebuilding programs. When you start winning, expectations start rising.

Q: What are the challenges you face in your first year?

A: First years are hard because everything you're familiar with has changed. Whether it's going from Asheville to Kansas, Kansas to Oregon, or Oregon to Tennessee, you have to get used to new things. Everything is unsettling. You're selling houses, buying houses, and doing things you don't do on an every day basis. But I've done it so many times it's not as bad as it was when I went from Asheville to Kansas.

Q: What were some of the pluses the team got out of the recent European tour?

A: I thought, one, getting familiar with the X's and O's that we brought to the plays and patterns. I thought another was bonding or getting to know each other personally a little bit better.

The players are all new to our staff. Third, I think the trip gave me a great look at the strength and the weaknesses this team has. Plus, I think it put some pressure on some of the players who were not accustomed to playing a great deal last year, and some of them I was pleasantly surprised with.

I think it was almost like adding an additional one-third of a season. We had nine games, which is about a third of what you end up playing. We ended up with 24 practices, which is about one-fourth of the practices that you have during the year.

So, I think that gave us a huge jump on starting Oct. 18. I think we will be more ready to play the season opener Nov. 14 than we would have been had we not taken the trip.

Q: What were some of the team's strengths you and your staff discovered during the tour?

A: I think some of the strengths we discovered was Brandon Wharton shoots the basketball well from the outside. I think we have enough muscle on the inside where people just don't run roughshod over us. I think we have a great attitude. There was nothing negative on the entire trip.

Everything was positive, from treating people nice to wanting to get better on the court. I thought they had a great work ethic. And to be honest with you, I got out of it what I hoped to get out of it. I think coaches are idealist and sometimes feel like you could have gotten a lot more out of something like that. But, I think I got out of it what I hoped to get out of it.

Q: How well did you think the team adjusted to the new system?

A: It was like a new computer chip in an old computer. I think the idea of how much I wanted to run settled in as we got a little bit better. It wasn't something that was easy to get a feel of, of just how much we want to get the ball up and down the court.

I think the plays and patterns early were more like

Coach Jerry Green's Volunteers open the 1997-98 season with its first game of the year at Thompson Boling Arena on Friday, Nov. 14, vs. Winthrop.

shackles, or drawbacks to us, but as the session went along, I thought we could use the plays and patterns more like weapons. But, I think the system was a different approach to playing the game was compared the way many of the young players that played last year played.

Q: What were your first years like at the other schools where you coached?

A: At UNC-Asheville, I didn't know how a big time basketball program was run, because I had been a high school coach. At Kansas, I learned how to run a basketball program from the top level of competition. At Oregon, we tried to do the same thing. With that knowledge I hope to be able to advance Tennessee basketball. The good thing about my career so far is that I know the cast coast, Kansas taught me about the middle part of the country, and then as I was able to get familiar with the west coast while I was at Oregon. Kansas taught me how to operate a basketball program at the top level. They had good facilities, a good campus, and good tradition. Kansas tradition is deep.

> ***"I think Orange is the best color in America. It's important that I do a great job here. The University of Tennessee is going to be a successful university with or without a successful basketball program, but they are ready for a good basketball program. I'm a team player, and I think this is a perfect spot for Jerry Green."***
>
> ***—Tennessee Head Coach Jerry Green***

Q: Comment on the challenge of filling the Thompson-Boling Arena.

A: I thought this place was huge. My dream is to fill the arena. Oregon was getting about 1,800 in an arena with a capacity of 10,000 when I got there, and you couldn't get a ticket when I left. They had to reconfigure the seating and some people would come in and stand to watch the games.

Some of the ticket holders couldn't see the game and people asked me if I thought that was a problem. I told them it was the greatest thing we had done. I hope to do the same here, to win some basketball games and get some good quality people as players. When you do, people will get excited.

Q: Comment on your relationship with former North Carolina Coach Dean Smith.

A: I try to copy Coach Smith. We are kind of like an extended family. Roy Williams (Green's former boss at Kansas) and I are like brothers, and I don't think there is anything I could ask of Coach Smith that he wouldn't do for me. That is part of the old connection we have. I really like Coach Smith and love Roy Williams.

Q: How hard will the switch from green and gold to orange and white be?

A: I think orange is the best color in America. It's important that I do a great job here. The University of Tennessee is going to be a successful university with or without a successful basketball program, but they are ready for a good basketball program. I'm a team player, and I think this is a perfect spot for Jerry Green.

Q: Comment on the incoming freshmen and what role you might see for them this season.

A: I think all three of them, and I include Isiah Victor in that incoming class, has a change to contribute to this team. Of course, Tony Harris has all the characteristics and capabilities of being an outstanding guard in this league. In some degree, I think he was the missing link from last year's team. He seems to be entire packagea person who can score, handle the ball against pressure, pressure the ball and is not going to be in awe of anybody he plays against. I think Del has the shooting ability to help us score. One of the problems the team has last season was putting the basketball in the hole, and I think Del can certainly help us in that area. I think Del's savvy of the game is going to be beneficial.

He did see us practice this summer, so I think the foreign tour even helped him to get used to things we do in practice. Isiah is a player who I think will be able to help us. The fact that he is so athletic and he has the ability to score should be beneficial to this team. He's got some things he needs to work on, playing within a team concept, but I can only see him getting better and better as he gets closer to actually getting in a game situation.

Q: What has been the response to you in the community since you have been the head coach?

A: I think it has really turned. When I first got here, there was a feeling of "who is this guy, where did he come from and why is his name not a national name?"

I think we have done some nice things since we've been here, including re-recruiting Tony Harris and stabilizing him and having a good start in a new recruiting year.

Then taking our team to Europe, something Tennessee had not done in quite a while. So, I think it has really turned from "who is this guy," to "hey, where excited about what's going with the University of Tennessee's basketball program."

A Look at the Lady Vols...

SEEKING LEADERSHIP IN YOUTH

Imagine that you have won back-to-back national championships and you have signed four of the best recruits in the country to play for your squad the following year. You would really like your chances of being successful in your league. Unless, from the end of the national championship game to the beginning of the next season's practice, you lost two players to graduation, lost one for personal reasons and another one for medical reasons. You might be really concerned.

However, if you are the Lady Vols, who are facing such a dilemma, it might just be another obstacle to overcome. Who would have believed after the 1996-97 regular season the Lady Vols would be playing in the Final Four, much less the national title game. As for this year, it is an opportunity to prove that this team has the athletic ability to overcome the loss of two seniors.

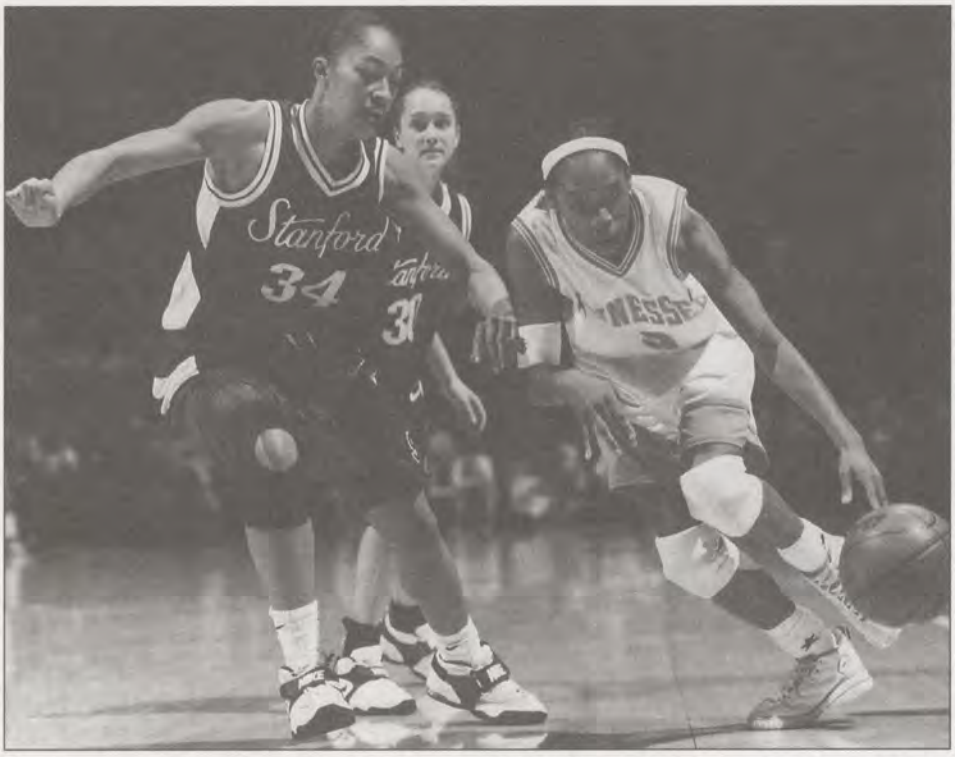
Tennessee lost its most experienced post player, as Tiffani Johnson was dismissed from the team for violation of team rules. Johnson averaged 10 points a game along with 7.4 rebounds. Her presence will be sorely missed inside where the only true returning center is sophomore LaShonda Stephens. Johnson will remain on scholarship and finish her education here at Tennessee.

News then came that returning point guard Laurie Milligan would have to pass on her senior year after doctors suggested that it would be in Milligan's best interest to give up basketball. If you saw the game in the early part of 1997 (Tennessee vs. Alabama), then you saw the play where Milligan, trying to avoid contact with a Tide defender, went down hard on her right knee. After surgery and months of rehabilitation, Milligan was not responding like the doctors had hoped. Milligan did return for the final seconds of the championship game against Old Dominion. She received an ovation from the Tennessee contingent, in what would be her final game as a Lady Vol. Milligan finished the year averaging 8.3 points a game and finished second on the team in assists with 98 (Chamique Holdsclaw - 114).

What has evolved is a first in Lady Vol basketball history, as a Tennessee team will take the court on Nov. 18 against Mississippi with no seniors on its roster. What Tennessee will lean on is its two-time All-America Holdsclaw (20.6 ppg, 9.4 rpg and a team high 93 steals), who along with fellow juniors Kellie Jolly (8.4 ppg and 94 assists on the year), Brynae Laxton (2.9 ppg and 2.1 rpg), and Misty Greene (5.8 ppg and 83.9% from the free throw line) will have to lead the Big Orange this season.

The Lady Vols do return two very talented sophomores in the likes of Kyra Elzy and Niya Butts. Elzy finished second to Holdsclaw in steals with 55, and turned in a defensive effort that helped propel the Lady Vols in the championship game. She came to Tennessee with high regards and the responsibility weighed heavy on her shoulders early in the season. Her job was to try and fill the shoes of the departed Latina Davis, and that may have played a big role in her early miscues. But, as the season progressed, Elzy began to shine. Never more so than in the Final Four where she helped shut down the potent Old Dominion squad.

Her partner in class would be Butts, who saw limited action last season but should see a great amount of time off of the bench early



Sophomore Kyra Elzy played a key role in Tennessee's run to the national crown last season and will be counted on to apply defensive pressure to opposing teams.

1997-98 TENNESSEE LADY VOLS BASKETBALL

3

NIYA BUTTS

SOPHOMORE
6-0, FORWARD
AMERICUS, GA

24

TAMIKA CATCHINGS
FRESHMAN
6-1, FORWARD
DUNCANVILLE, TX

33

KRISTEN CLEMENT
FRESHMAN
5-11, GUARD
BROOMALL, PA

5

KYRA ELZY

SOPHOMORE
6-1, FORWARD
LAGRANGE, KY

40

TERESA GETER
FRESHMAN
6-3, CENTER
COLUMBIA, SC

13

MISTY GREENE
JUNIOR
5-9, GUARD
DECATUR

23

CHAMIQUE HOLDSCLAW
JUNIOR
6-2, FORWARD
ASTORIA, NY

14

KELLIE JOLLY

JUNIOR
5-10, GUARD
SPARTA

31

BRYNAE LAXTON
JUNIOR
6-0, FORWARD
ONEIDA

21

SEMEKA RANDALL
FRESHMAN
5-10, GUARD
CLEVELAND, OH

34

LASHONDA STEPHENS
SOPHOMORE
6-3, CENTER
WOODSTOCK, GA

Photos by UT PhotoServices and Don Carringer of Basketball Time in Tennessee
Design by Donnell Field

in the season. She could vie for a starting role if her progress has improved tremendously over last year. Niya averaged 2.5 ppg while hitting on 67.6% from the charity stripe. Her presence will be counted on while the four newcomers learn the Tennessee system.

What do freshmen Tamika Catchings, Kristen Clement, Teresa Geter and Semeka Randall have in common, other than a trophy case the size of a Mack truck to carry the awards that they had garnered during their prep years? How about having to face the likes of Stanford at San Jose, Calif., Georgia in Athens, Ole Miss in Oxford, Memphis in Memphis, and Vanderbilt in Nashville. Those are just the road games. They have an impressive home schedule which includes: Ole Miss (on Nov. 18), Louisiana Tech (Nov. 21), Texas (Dec. 3), Illinois (SEC/Big10 Challenge on Dec. 12), Arkansas (which beat Tennessee last season, on Jan. 1), Connecticut (Jan. 3), Florida (Jan. 10), Old Dominion (Feb. 7), Auburn (who knocked the Lady Vols out of the SEC Tourney last March, on Feb. 14) and LSU to round out the regular season on Feb. 22. There is one stretch-run at home, which I left out on purpose. That would be the games on Jan. 25, Jan. 28 and Feb. 1 as the Lady Vols will take on Vanderbilt, Georgia and Alabama, all within a week of each other.

Juniors Misty Greene (left) and Kellie Jolly (right) will have to take a more active role in leading a squad which returns no seniors for the first time in the history of the program.

■■■■

"ALL FOUR -- TAMIKA, ACE, TREE AND SEMEKA -- HAVE TREMENDOUS COMPETITIVE DRIVES, EXCEPTIONAL TALENT AND WONDERFUL PERSONALITIES. THEIR UP-TEMPO GAMES WILL CERTAINLY ADD AN EVEN GREATER EXCITEMENT LEVEL TO LADY VOL BASKETBALL. WE HAVE SIGNED SOME OUTSTANDING CLASSES OF STUDENT-ATHLETES IN MY 23 YEARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, BUT NEVER BEFORE HAVE ATTRACTED AS PROLIFIC A LEVEL OF TALENT AS WE FOUND IN THESE FOUR YOUNG LADIES."

-- LADY VOL HEAD COACH PAT SUMMITT

■■■■

The freshman, as mentioned earlier, do come with great credentials on their resumes. Catchings was the 1997 Naismith and WBCA/Rawlings Player of the Year, a four-time Parade All-America and a Nike/WBCA All-America. She averaged 21.0 ppg, 10.1 rpg, 4.3 apg, and 3.0 bpg. Her Duncanville High School team went undefeated during her senior season (40-0).

Geter was named as the 1997 Miss Basketball for the state of South Carolina. Additionally, she was the state 2A Player of the Year in 1996 and 1997 and was a member of the 1997 Parade All-America team. She averaged 27.3 ppg (finishing with 2174 career points), 11.2 rpg, 7.2 bpg, and 4.2 spg.

Randall is a highly respected guard who has the athletic ability to shoot the jumper or blow by people. She was the 1997 Parade Co-Player of the Year and a Nike/WBCA All-America while averaging 32.0 ppg, 15.6 rpg, 6.7 apg, 8.5 spg and 2.7 bpg. Her Trinity High School team won state titles in 1994 and 1996, compiling a 100-9 record during her years at Trinity. She was also named as Miss Basketball in the state of Ohio during her junior and senior year.

Then there is Clement, known by her teammates as "Ace." Clement is a three-time Parade All-America and a member of the Nike/WBCA All-America team. Clement eclipsed a mark held in Philadelphia that had stood for 40 years, that being Wilt Chamberlain's scoring mark of 2205 points. Clement finished her career with 2256 points while averaging 27.9 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 5.9 apg, and 5.3 steals per contest.

All of this will mean nothing if the young freshmen cannot adapt to the rigors of the SEC and, what is without a doubt, one of the toughest schedules in the country if not in the history of a Tennessee program. Tennessee will have to endure growing pains as the junior class learns to assert its leadership and freshmen begin to blossom into a dangerous mixture of athletic ability and savvy.

All of which will make for another interesting season in the heart of "Big Orange Country." If you can endure the ride, it should prove to be one of the most challenging and thrilling experiences that you will ever find on the hardwood.

—Donnell Field

Last Word...
THE 40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

I realized the other day, too late for a celebration, that it was 40 years ago this past Oct. 5 that I saw my first UT football game.

The year was 1957, when the Tennessee football program advertised Tennessee Ernie Ford, Dinah Shore, Perry Como, Giselle McKenzie and Steve Allen on Knoxville's Channel 6, the station that also carried NCAA football on Saturdays and the Vol replay on Sundays.

In those less than politically correct days, there was also an ad on the back of the program for Oasis Filters, whatever they were, a product of Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company. It was also the days of five digit phone numbers in the Knoxville exchange.

It was the second game of the season against Wade Walker's Mississippi State Maroons/Bulldogs. The Vols had lost the previous week to Auburn in the rain at Shields-Watkins Field by a 7-0 count and were well on the way to losing again before Pulaski's Bobby Gordon took a State punt back 55 yards for a score late in the fourth quarter for the eventual winning margin. The final was 14-9 that October afternoon.

Tennessee trailed 9-0 early and 9-7 late before Gordon's fateful run. Gordon had led a TD drive earlier in the quarter and had dropped a punt dead inside the State 5. The Vols had run out of downs a series earlier inside the State 15 before Gordon's return down the East side to the North end.

The win seemed to galvanize the Vols who immediately dispatched Chattanooga (28-13) on the strength of field position engendered by three turnovers and a kickoff return for a score by Gordon (89 yards), Alabama (14-0 at Birmingham) breaking a scoreless tie with two fourth quarter scores, Maryland (16-0 at College Park), North Carolina (35-0 at Chapel Hill) and Georgia Tech (21-6), in a game in which the Vols ran a play from the "T" formation near the end of the half.

(QUICK QUIZ: Tennessee did something significant against Alabama in 1955, 1956 and 1957, winning all three games. What was it? Let us know. Back to the story.)

A look at Shields-Watkins Field from the Hill circa 1957.

The wheels came off the next two weeks as Ole Miss took the Vols in the rain at Crump Stadium in Memphis (14-7) and Lou Michaels almost single-handedly dispatched the Vols 20-6 at Stoll Field in Lexington. The Vols then, however, recovered to defeat Vanderbilt 20-6 and earned a trip to Jacksonville to face Bear Bryant's last Texas A&M team.

In a classic defensive struggle, the Vols won, 3-0, as Sammy Burklow booted a 17-yard field goal in the fourth quarter. The game is best remembered for a classic collision between Gordon and the Aggies' John David Crow, the 1957 Heisman Trophy winner, that left both men dazed on the turf.

The season was a time of Bobby Gordon and Bill Johnson, Stockton Adkins, who won the Jacobs Trophy, emblematic of the SEC's best blocker, and Bill Anderson, Tommy Bronson and Lon Herzbrun, among others.

Johnson made All-America that season and was joined by Gordon in making All-SEC.

It's been an interesting 40 years since that fateful day in October. Shields-Watkins Field has become Neyland Stadium and grown to more than twice the size it was in 1957, 102,544 versus 46,000. There's a new upper deck all the way around from North to South.

Coaches named Bowden Wyatt, Jim McDonald, Doug Dickey, Bill Battle, John Majors and Fulmer have been at the helm on the East side, the West side and back to the East side of the hallowed turf, real and otherwise, down on the floor of the field given by Col. W.S. Shields and his wife, Alice-Watkins Shields. An, of course in later years, the Stadium named for Gen. Robert R. Neyland, the man who started it all.

I can remember days huddled around a radio listening to George Mooney and Bob Foxx (with the late Julian Andes as their spotter) on the Texaco Radio Network. Then there were more recent days at John Ward's right hand trying to find the numbers of the ball carrier and tackler for him on his spot chart, offense and defense both, thank you.

Grass came and went in favor of artificial turf in 1968, but mercifully made a comeback in 1994 and has been there ever since.

Bill Dyer was on the scene in 1957, capturing the games with his unique DyerGram and all seemed right with the world.

No one can predict with anywhere near mathematical certainty how the next 40 years will go on the Vol gridiron. But to all the nine-year olds watching Vol football, here's a suggestion: Watch the games, enjoy them while you can and you'll never know what the future might hold.

As long as young men play on Shields-Watkins Field in Orange and White jerseys, there will be a number of happy times in Knoxville and across the width and breadth of Big Orange Country, however you define that term.

— Tom Mattingly

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